

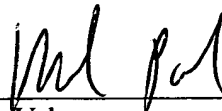
B. REMARKS

Claims 1-59 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 10-14, and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,598,988 ("Noll"). The examiner has objected to claims 6-9, 15-16, 22-28, and 56-57 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The examiner has objected to claim 29 based on an informality. Claims 29-55 and 58-59 have been allowed.

Applicants hereby amend claim 15 to recite the limitations of its base claim, claim 1, thus placing claim 15 in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby amend claims 2-6, 10, 17-23, and 56-57 to depend from claim 15, thus placing these claims in condition for allowance. Claims 7-9, 11-16, and 24-28 as originally filed now depend from an allowable base claim and thus are in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby amend claim 29 to correct the informality identified by the examiner. Applicants hereby cancel claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



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